

Northeast Library System

Better Library Service through Cooperation



Annual Report

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Our Board Members

Joyce Sullivan
Elgin Public Library

Kathy Ageton, Vice -President
Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk

Michele Hastreiter, Secretary
Humphrey Public Library

Judy Hilkemann
Norfolk Public Library

Elaine Tobias
Pilger Public Library

Beth Foulks
Ponca Public Schools

Melissa Baumert
Clarkson Public Library

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Madison Public Schools

Dawnn Tucker
Lied Pierce Public Library

Susan Tyndall
Nebraska Indian Community College

Tami Anderson
Hartington Public Library

Kate Ostenrude
Neligh Public Library

Judy Hagan, President
Atkinson Public Library

Our Staff

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System Snapshot

What is the Northeast Library System?

The Northeast Library System (NELS) is one of six Regional Library Systems in Nebraska. The six systems were established to provide improved library services through the cooperation of all types of libraries and media centers. The Northeast Library System is a non-profit corporation governed by a local System Board. The System is funded primarily by state appropriations and federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, which are administered through the Nebraska Library Commission.

Our passion is supporting libraries and ensuring that northeast Nebraskans have access to quality library services.

NELS covers 13,068 square miles and serves a population of roughly 202,000. The twenty counties within the Northeast Library System region are: Boyd, Holt, Wheeler, Antelope, Knox, Madison, Boone, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Butler, Polk, Colfax, Wayne, Cedar, Dakota, Thurston, Dixon, Pierce and Stanton.

The Library Journal included six NELS libraries in its "America's Star Libraries" ratings. Out of a possible high score of 5 stars, the following libraries were listed with 3 stars and above:

- Hartington Public Library – 5 stars
- Central City Public Library – 5 stars
- Neligh Public Library – 5 stars
- Atkinson Public Library – 5 stars
- Lied Battle Creek Public Library – 3 stars
- Hruska Memorial Library, David City – 3 stars



For 2011-2012

Workshops provided by NELS : 33
(including those in partnership with other agencies)

Attendance at NELS Workshops : 808

Items loaned from NELS : 474
(books, videos, journals, etc.)

NELS By the Numbers

School Libraries	138
Public Libraries	72
Academic Libraries	6
Institutional or Special	8
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Total # of libraries in NELS	224

Our Mission

The Northeast Library System's mission is to be proactive by facilitating communication, education and access to information through partnerships with area libraries, school media centers, trustees, advocates and their communities.

In order to facilitate **communication**, we:



- Published 6 issues of the Straight Talk Newsletter.
- Maintained a System website through the Nebraska Libraries on the Web project, which is updated frequently. The website had 2,025 hits in the last year.
- Posted information on a timely basis on the System's email discussion list.
- Maintained and frequently updated a Facebook page for the System, which currently has 57 followers.
- Discussed with librarians issues ranging from funding to board relationships to collection management, in person, on the phone and via email.
- Provided promotional items (posters, bookmarks, bags, etc.) at NELS workshops.
- Awarded 14 "Pat on the Back" Awards to various library supporters and library board members.
- The director made 55 visits to libraries and traveled over 7,500 miles on system business.



In order to provide libraries with **access to information**, we:

- Circulated a set of four eReaders to 14 libraries, two of which borrowed the set twice. The eReader set was also used in several OverDrive demonstrations by NELS.

Librarian Comments about the eReader Set:

- We were more confident as we experimented with the readers.
- Thank you—Thank you—what a great selection. This was very helpful to our library.
- Had several patrons look at them and wondered what they were, so it was a great teaching tool to show them what they were and what you could do with each of them. Thank you for letting us check them out!

- Participated in the E-Rate discount program and assisted libraries with various questions and forms on E-Rate throughout the year.
- Provided equipment (projector, AccuCut dies and cutter, Wii game system and games) for libraries to learn how new equipment works and to try it out in their own library setting.
- Subscribed to 11 professional journals and routed these to librarians across the system.
- Maintained a collection of 60 training videos and 165 professional books for librarians and library board members to further their professional knowledge.
- Held 45 book sets for use by school and library book clubs.
- Loaned out 474 items to assist librarians in continuing their professional education.

In order to provide **educational opportunities**, we:

- Co-sponsored with Nebraska Regional Library Systems the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in July 2011. 29 librarians participated in this 4-day event.
- Sponsored one full-cost scholarship of \$225 to the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute.
- Helped facilitate the Nebraska Library Commission's Technology Planning Summer Camp event in Norfolk. 40 librarians attended this 2-day workshop in Norfolk.
- Presented an NCompass Live session on September 7 about the newly updated Every Child Ready to Read initiative from the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children. This session has been viewed 222 times.
- Sponsored a Week of Weeding to educate librarians about collection management and encourage the weeding of outdated and unused materials. 36 libraries participated.
- Hosted an Annual Meeting along with a day-long workshop on September 21. We partnered with the Northeast Nebraska Network Consortium and the area ESU's to provide a workshop that would reach out to public, school and academic librarians. Featured speakers were Nebraska's First Lady, Sally Ganem and Nebraska Humanities Council Speaker Jeff Barnes. Breakout sessions were presented by Georgia Scurletis, Lynete Sprunk, Eileen Bramer, Gloria Christiansen, David Privett, Troy Anderson, Sally Snyder, Shelia Cermak, Gayle Roberts and Laura Johnson. 103 people attended.



A small sampling of the comments about the Fall Workshop:

- I love the common commitment among this gathering. Many days my job is lonely. I like the collaborative feel here!
 - Laura Johnson's suggestions for weeding gave me practical plans for taking on a mountain of outdated material found at my new position. The resources will be very helpful.
 - It was very helpful to practice using the databases along with the presenter. It will help me design my instruction to teachers and students.
 - Collections for your Community {a session by Gayle Roberts} was awesome! I need to find a way to do this.
- Sponsored two \$150 scholarships for librarians and school media specialists to attend the Annual NLA/NEMA Conference in Lincoln in October, 2011.

- Co-sponsored with Nebraska Regional Library Systems an NLA Pre-conference event, "Shortcuts to Greatness, or 10 Things that Great Libraries Know and Maybe You Don't " with Karen Hyman. 42 people attended.

As a result of the Karen Hyman Workshop:

- Twenty participants said they would make changes in their libraries based on what they learned in this presentation.
- Fourteen participants said they were inspired and couldn't wait to get back to their library to try out a new idea.

- Presented two sessions at the NLA/NEMA Conference October 6 and 7. An information session on the Regional Library Systems was attended by 15 people. A session on the newly updated Every Child Ready to Read initiative from the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children was attended by 40 people.

- Hosted a Book Repair Workshop with the Kapco company at the Columbus Public Library on October 17. 20 librarians attended.



- Presented a Youth Services Workshop at the Norfolk Public Library on October 25 featuring Rachelle McPhillips of the Columbus Public Library, Cally O'Brien from the Schuyler Public Library, Karen Drevo and Marci Retzlaff of the Norfolk Public Library and Jessica Chamberlain of the Northeast Library System. 26 people attended.

A small sampling of the comments about the Youth Services Workshop:

- One of the best workshops I have attended. Very informative, enjoyable and many things were learned.
- This gives me inspiration that I could do [a program] with upper elementary/ jr. high.
- I came home with some ideas and have already implemented some. Thank you.

- In conjunction with the Regional Library Systems, helped support Read Aloud Nebraska's program on November 4 featuring author and educator David Biedrzycki. 50 people attended.
- Co-sponsored with the Nebraska Regional Library System's and UNO's Library Studies Program a final session of "Critical Conversations" for new directors of public libraries. The November 9 workshop focused on budgets and featured Nancy Busch of UNL. It was attended by 12 new directors.
- Helped facilitate a Nebraska Library Commission's E-Rate Training Workshop in Norfolk on November 10. Three people attended.
- Presented two Technology Review 2011 Workshops in December that reviewed library-related technology in the news over the past year, focusing particularly on ebooks and libraries. 16 people attended the workshop at the Columbus Public Library and 7 people attended the workshop at the Lied Randolph Public Library.



- Presented a day-long Winter Workshop on February 16 that featured Customer Service training from Joyce Neujahr of UNO and a presentation by columnist and author Melanie Wilkinson. Afternoon breakout sessions were presented by Richard Miller, Michael Sauers and Devra Dragos of the Nebraska Library Commission and a panel of librarians who presented booktalks and spoke about Readers' Advisory services. 64 people attended.

As a result of the Winter Workshop:

- Seven people indicated they would implement something they learned in Michael Sauers' presentation on Time Saving Tech Tools.
- Twelve people indicated they would implement something they learned from Joyce Neuhar's presentation on Customer Service.
- Six people indicated they would make at least one change based on what they learned in Richard Miller's presentation on Playing by the Rules.

- Presented a Summer Reading Program workshop in Columbus on March 6, with help from the Nebraska Library Commission in providing speakers Sally Snyder and Jody Crocker. Paula McClung from Lincoln City Schools also presented to the crowd. 51 people attended.
- Presented a workshop entitled "Helping Patrons with Assistance Programs" that featured presentations by the Department of Health and Human Services and Foodbank for the Heartland. 10 people attended.
- Sponsored 5 full-cost scholarships for librarians to attend the Nebraska Library Association's Spring Meetings.
- Presented an NCompass Live session on April 11 promoting the Nebraska Library Association's Snapshot Week. This session has been viewed 30 times.
- Co-sponsored a workshop with Central Community College on Windows 7 & Office 2010. 10 people attended.

**Librarians On
TARGET**



- Facilitated four meetings of the TARGET group (newly christened "Librarians On Target") which is an informal meeting of librarians. Meetings took place in O'Neill, Pierce, Tilden and Clarks and a total of 35 people attended.
- Provided training in the use of OverDrive for library staff and patrons at 8 different schools and libraries. 235 people attended a total of 12 training events.
- Director met with Library Technical Assistant (LTA) and LIS students to inform them about Regional Library Systems and their role in supporting Nebraska libraries.
- Director attended meetings on library issues and emerging trends at the Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia in March of 2012.

Thank you to the Nebraska Library Commission for their support of the Northeast Library System, to the Nebraska Regional Library Systems for their partnership in so many endeavors, and the many agencies and libraries that worked with us to host these educational and inspirational events.

